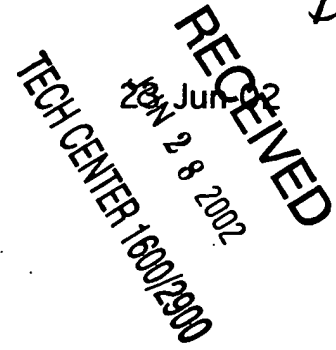


COVER LETTER:

To: Examiner Robert M. Joynes

RE: Application 09/835,501



Mr. Jones,

I have changed the claims section to reflect the corrections suggested by you:

1. Rejection of (independent ) claim 1 because "being indefinite for failing to point out and distinctly claim the subject matter which the applicant regards as the invention"

Claim 1 has been replaced to address this problem, identifying the particular invention as a technique to elevate endogenous growth hormone release.

2. Dependent claims 2-5 now refer back to independent claim 1 only to add further detail to claim 1, and the proper Markush format of "consisting of" has been used

3. The general term "and derivatives thereof" is deleted from claims 2 & 3

4. Directions for administration prior to the typical midmorning pulsatile release of estrogen in premenopausal women are dropped for the more general dependent claim of ingestion of the mixture after a 3-4 hours fast at any time during the day. (claim 8)

5. All claims as a supplement for bodybuilder and athletes are dropped to avoid overlap with the Gardiner patent (US 5817329). Gardiner does not describe a method to elevate growth hormone.

6. All claims as a supplement to treat weight gain or facilitate weight loss are dropped to avoid overlap with Braswell (US 5911992). Further, L-phenylalanine amino acid is dropped from the current patent list of component 2 chemicals. Braswell does not make a claim to elevate physiologic output of growth hormone or to accelerate the rate of growth of immature domestic animals.

I have also deleted any text sections that deal with these particular claims of Gardiner or Braswell.

Tyler Parr